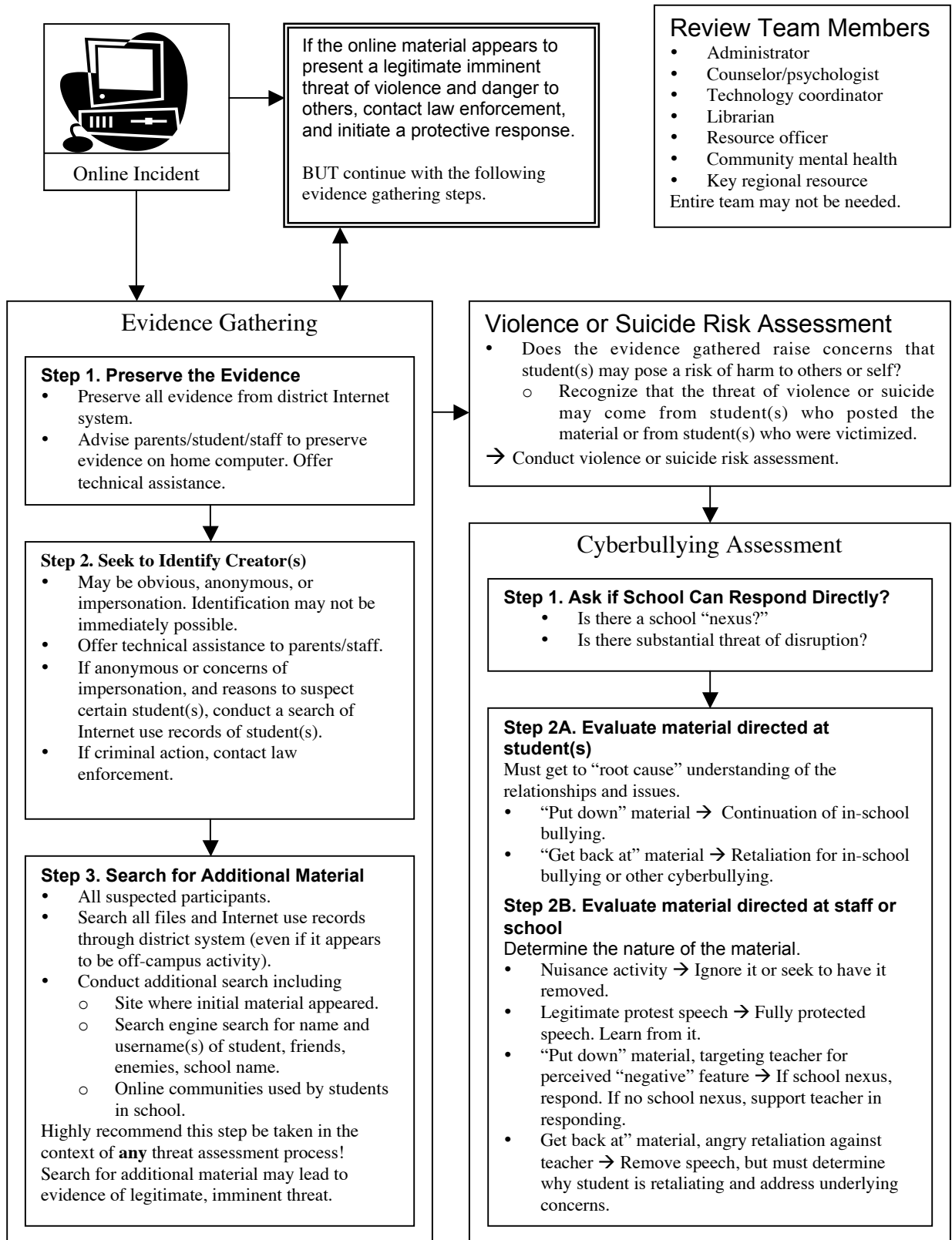


Cyberbullying or Cyberthreat Situation Review Process



School Actions and Options

Formal Disciplinary Action

Can impose formal disciplinary response if have established a school nexus and substantial and material disruption. But still need to address:

- Removal of materials and potential of retaliation by student or online “buddies.”
- If “put down” cyberbully stop all in-school bullying. If “get back at” cyberbully, stop all in-school victimization.
- Support needs of target.

If cannot impose formal discipline, other action options still available.

Working With Parents

Child who is “Put Down” Cyberbully Assumptions

- Parents unaware, but actions are against family values.
- Initial response will be disbelief, followed by anger and humiliation.
- Parents naïve about strategies to manage Internet use.

Process

- Send downloaded material and *Parent’s Guide* to parents via certified mail.
- Request meeting following day.
- Seek parental commitment to:
 - Establish prohibitions.
 - Prevent retaliation.
 - Install and use monitoring software.
 - Limit student’s access through other venues.

Increased potential for financial liability through civil litigation is the strongest leverage.

Child who is Target, “Get Back At” Cyberbully, or Who Has Posted Distressing Material

- Parent could approach school or school could find out from other source.
- Initial response of parents will be significant concern for safety and well-being of child.
- If contacting parent about reported concern, establish preliminary plan of action for support prior to meeting with parents.
- If working with parent of “get back at” cyberbully or student who has posted distressing material:
 - Ensure material is removed.
 - Install and use monitoring software.
 - Address underlying bullying or emotional concerns.
- If working with parents of target:
 - Explain limitations on formal response.
 - Use appropriate Response Options to stop/remove harmful material.
 - Warn to watch for retaliation.

Working with Students

Working with Student Who is Target

Addiction

- Address concerns of addiction to harmful online community.
 - Convince target to leave community.
 - Find way to get the cyberbullying to stop within the community.

Online Bully-Proofing

- Communications are preserved, so student and counselor can evaluate and determine patterns of communication that may be precipitating bullying.
- Impact of harmful communication is invisible if target does not immediately respond.
- Delay in communications can provide opportunity for target to calm down and respond with strength.

When to Ask for Help

Encourage students to tell an adult if:

- They are really upset and not sure what to do.
- The cyberbullying could be a crime.
- Any cyberbullying is or might be occurring through the district Internet system or via a cell phone at school.
- They are being bullied by the same person at school.
- The cyberbully is anonymous.
- The cyberbully is bullying other teens who may be more vulnerable.

Parent/Student/Staff Response Options

- Challenge the cyberbully to stop.
- Ignore the cyberbully.
- File a complaint.
- Have the parents contact the cyberbully’s parents.
- Contact an attorney.
- Contact the police.

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use
<http://cyberbully.org>
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